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March 13, 2023

Senator James Kaufman
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Comments submitted via email

Re: AMA Support for SB34, an Act reestablishing the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas (CACFA) in Alaska

Dear Senator Kaufman:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to comment in support of SB34, *"An Act reestablishing the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska; and providing for an effective date."*

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

For many years, CACFA successfully monitored and defended the State's interests, and those of individual citizens, from overarching and unreasonable federal regulation and management. Today, Alaska's need for the CACFA mission is greater than ever. Because the challenges at the federal level are numerous and broad-reaching, this year, AMA adopted an entire new section to its annual State Issues of Concern [document](#) in which it details eight individual policy positions related to federal policy. The positions range from defending sovereign rights under the Statehood Act to allow Alaska control over its water, to pursuit of guaranteed access for all uses across all lands, opposition to unwarranted Endangered Species Act listings, pursuit of lifting Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (d)(1) and other Public Land Orders, and much more. Reestablishing CACFA would put the State in a strong position to continue defending Alaska's best interests.

Thank you for introducing SB34, and we will urge its committees of referral to act on this important bill to ensure it becomes law.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director